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Visiting Committees to the Museum for 1906.

AT their annual meeting in January the Trustees added to the By-Laws of the Museum an article providing for the annual appointment of Visiting Committees entrusted with the duty of examining and reporting upon the various departments of the Museum and branches of its activity. In pursuance of this provision several Committees have since been formed and have held meetings at the Museum to acquaint themselves with its personnel and its management. These Committees consist of the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Administration.

Laurence Minot, *Chairman.*
T. Jefferson Coolidge, Jr.
Arthur F. Estabrook.
A. Lawrence Lowell.
Wallace L. Pierce.

Library.

C. K. Bolton, *Chairman.*
Holker Abbott.
Mrs. Henry D. Burnham.
Miss Agnes Irwin.
A. W. Longfellow.

Chinese and Japanese Art.

Edward J. Holmes,
Chairman.
Mrs. Harold J. Coolidge.
Robert Treat Paine, 2d.
Mrs. George Tyson

Collection of Paintings.

Dr. A. T. Cabot, *Chairman.*
Dr. Henry C. Angell.
Eben D. Jordan.
E. C. Tarbell.
F. P. Vinton.

Classical Department.

E. W. Forbes, *Chairman.*
Mrs. W. Scott Fitz.
W. Amory Gardner
Bela L. Pratt.
Washington B. Thomas.

Print Department.

Francis Bullard, *Chairman.*
Gordon Abbott.
H. G. Curtis.
Mrs. J. C. Phillips.

Educational Effort.

Stratton D. Brooks, *Chairman.*
Mrs. Allen Curtis.
George B. Dorr.
Mrs. R. S. Russell.
Walter Sargent.

Textile Collection.

Dr. D. W. Ross, *Chairman.*
Miss Frances G. Curtis.
Dr. J. W. Elliot.
Mrs. Bayard Thayer.
C. J. H. Woodbury.

Egyptian Department.

G. M. Lane, *Chairman.*
Mrs. Frederick Ayer.
Mrs. T. James Bowlker.
Augustus Hemenway.
Joseph Lindon Smith.

Western Art (except Textiles).

J. T. Coolidge, Jr., *Chairman.*
I. Tucker Burr.
Mrs. Lorin F. Deland.
Miss Ellen S. Hooper.
F. G. Macomber.

The Plans for the New Building.

AT the regular quarterly meeting of the Trustees held on July 19, the Building Committee presented a unanimous report approving a design for the new building of the Museum prepared by the architect, Mr. Guy Lowell, in consultation with Messrs. E. M. Wheelwright, R. C. Sturgis, and Professor D. Despradelle, upon the basis of sketch plans and elevations furnished him by the Building Committee in January last as the result of the coöperation of the architects named, the Staff of the Museum, and the Committee during the three years devoted to preliminary study of the problem. The design was submitted in the form of plans on the scale of working drawings, with elevations, sections and a perspective sketch, and was accepted and adopted as the design for the new building by a unanimous vote of the

Trustees. The preparation of the final working drawings as a basis for specifications and bids for the construction of the building will be immediately entered upon, and it is hoped shortly to publish the plans with a description of the proposed structure.

Committee on the Utilization of the Museum by Schools and Colleges.

THE first meeting of a committee formed to promote the utilization of the Museum by schools and colleges took place at the Museum on May 23 last, under the chairmanship of President Eliot, the other members of the Committee being President Henry Lefavour, vice-chairman, Mrs. Richard C. Cabot, Miss Frances R. Morse, Miss Anna D. Slocum, Professor P. H. Hanus, Mr. J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., Temporary Director, Mr. Walter Sargent, and Professor H. Langford Warren. Mr. M. S. Prichard was chosen as secretary.

The aim of the Committee is to awaken an interest in art among the students of our schools and colleges through the agency of the collections of the Museum. A sub-committee of five members, consisting of Mr. Walter Sargent, chairman, Mrs. Cabot, Miss Morse, Miss Slocum and Professor Hanus, was appointed to carry out the work outlined. For the coming November the sub-committee has planned a course of introductory lectures by prominent authorities, primarily for teachers, but open to all who wish to attend. Mr. John La Farge has consented to speak on the consideration of Painting and the consideration of the Minor Arts, Mr. W. P. P. Longfellow on Architecture, while Professor Warren and Mr. Sargent will give more general addresses. Further information in regard to these lectures and to other plans of the Committee will be given in a subsequent Bulletin.

The movement thus auspiciously begun is the outgrowth of an effort initiated five years ago by Miss Anna Boynton Thompson of Thayer Academy, in coöperation with other ladies, to interest teachers of history in New England in making larger use of the stores of material apt for their purposes which are contained in the museums of Boston and other New England cities. A petition for instruction in connection with the Museum collections, signed by a large number of teachers of history in Massachusetts and neighboring states, was presented to the Trustees of the Museum in 1901, and met with cordial sympathy. On April 30, 1904, a meeting called by the ladies' committee was held at the Westminster, and was addressed by President Eliot and other speakers. The active aid of Simmons College was secured soon after its organization, and under its auspices courses of lectures to teachers were given in the Museum during the autumn months of 1904, and again in the early months of 1905 and in the present year. The final issue of these efforts has

been the formation of the present committee and its organization as a working body with an executive sub-committee and a secretary. The Committee is representative not only of Harvard College, Simmons College and the Museum, but of State agencies of instruction and of the ladies among whom the movement originated, and who have thus far carried it on. It opens a new field of influence to collections of art in New England, and one about whose future fruitfulness there can hardly be question.

Mr. M. S. Prichard has resigned his position as Bursar of the Museum, and will devote himself wholly to the affairs of the Committee whose organization and plans have just been described. Through Mr. Prichard's retirement, the Museum loses an able and zealous officer, whose influence has been strongly felt in all its concerns, and whose coöperation will be welcomed in extending the scope of its influence.

Handbook of the Museum.

A HANDBOOK of the Museum has just been published and is on sale at the door. Price in paper cover, 25 cents; in cloth, 50 cents: *postpaid*, 30 cents and 60 cents.

The handbook is a 16mo volume of 204 pages, containing 183 illustrations of objects arranged according to departments of the Museum, its aim being to serve both as an introduction to the collections and a souvenir of them. Each illustration is accompanied by a title or a descriptive text, and a few words about each department introduce the illustrations referring to it. The closing pages of the volume give information as to the organization and history of the Museum, with a list of its publications and other data, and contain a view of the building, a plan of the offices, and a map showing the site of the new Museum. Plans of the galleries are printed on the inside of the front and back covers, this position being chosen for convenience of consultation. The rooms forming a single department are given a distinctive color, showing at a glance the limits of the collections; and directions to visitors are printed below. The volume is of a size to be conveniently carried in the pocket, and in cloth binding forms a substantial book.

The handbook is not a catalogue of the collections. Its purpose is to give a general knowledge of the Museum and its contents, and a closer acquaintance with a number of objects uniting special interest with adaptability for illustration. For each of these, data are supplied which will contribute to its understanding and an illustration which will help recall it to memory. For information about the remaining original objects in the Museum the visitor is referred to the labels and descriptive cards to be found with them. The collections of casts from antique and modern sculpture are already fully

described in the Catalogue of casts from Greek and Roman sculpture, and the Manual of Italian Renaissance Sculpture, also on sale at the door.

A general introduction or guide to the whole Museum has often been asked for by visitors, and it is hoped that the present handbook may acceptably meet this need. The preliminary edition, which was prepared for the Convention of the American Medical Association has since been exhausted. In future editions it will be sought to improve and enrich the present volume.

Notes.

SINCE THE OPENING of the Exhibition of Early American Silver in the Textile Gallery the desire has frequently been expressed that the exhibition should have its permanent memorial in the form of an illustrated catalogue. The quality and variety of the work of early American silversmiths have been set in a clear light by the effort to bring together a representative selection of their work. The announcement is made with pleasure that with the aid of Mr. John H. Buck of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and through the generosity of Messrs. R. T. H. Halsey, of New York, and George L. Palmer, of New London, Conn., such a catalogue is in process of preparation, and it is hoped will be issued in a few days. It will form an octavo volume containing about fifty full page illustrations, several of them photogravures. The introduction and descriptive text are the work of Mr. Buck, aided by Mr. Halsey, who has supplied many hitherto unpublished data obtained from contemporary publications. The price of the catalogue will be \$2.00 (*postpaid*, \$2.20). An edition without illustrations will be sold for \$0.50 (*postpaid*, \$0.60).

THE INSTALLATION of the Exhibition of Early American Silver in the Gallery of Textiles has necessitated the temporary removal of many of the previous exhibits to the Textile Room (No. 14) in the basement of the building, where they will be shown to any visitors desiring to see them.

DURING THE FOUR SUMMER MONTHS from June 1 until October 1, the Library and the offices of the Print Department are closed on Saturday at one o'clock.

A RECEPTION TO THE MEMBERS of the American Medical Association attending the Convention in this city June 5 to 8, and to their invited guests, was held in the Museum on Tuesday evening, June 5, from 8.30 until 10.00. About eight hundred persons were present.

MR. J. B. POTTER, Keeper of Paintings, has been granted leave of absence from the Museum during the latter part of the summer for the purpose of study in the museums of the Low Countries and at Madrid. Mr. Potter expects to leave about the middle of August to be gone until December 1.